

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 07463 081032Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 080848Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6854

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7463

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS, US

SUBJECT: ROKG RELATIONS WITH AMERICAN PRESS

REF: SEOUL 7420

1. BLUE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY KIM SEONG JIN CALLED ON ME NOVEMBER 8 TO REVIEW ONCE AGAIN JULIE MOON CASE. HE FIRST SOUGHT TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE WAS ANY LEGAL BASIS FOR U.S. DENIAL OF HER ACCOMPANYING THE PRESIDENT AS MEMBER OF PRESS CORPS. I EXPLAINED THERE WAS NO BASIS FOR USG RESTRICTION OF HER GOING ALONG ON PRESIDENTIAL TRIP. KIM SEONG JIN ALSO RECOGNIZED, AS DID KIM CHONG YOM, ADVERSE PUBLIC REACTION TO BARRING HER ENTRY, ALTHOUGH HE MADE CLEAR JULIE MOON'S PUBLIC REQUEST FOR "POLITICAL ASYLUM" IN U.S. AND STRONG PUBLIC ATTACKS ON ROKG DEEPLY RANKLED.

2. KIM AFFIRMED THAT ROK WOULD NOT RPT NOT BAR JULIE MOON'S ENTRY PROVIDED SHE WOULD TRAVEL WITH PRESS CORPS, ARRIVING AND DEPARTING WITH IT. I TOLD HIM THAT I ASSUMED THIS WOULD BE THE CASE, BUT WOULD REAFFIRM WITH WASHINGTON. KIM ALSO ASSUMED THAT JULIE MOON WOULD NOT RPT NOT ENGAGE IN OUTSIDE POLITICAL ACTIVITY DURING HER BRIEF STAY IN ROK AND ASKED ME TO HAVE THIS AFFIRMED IN WASHINGTON.

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3. WOULD APPRECIATE AFFIRMATION FROM WASHINGTON OF ABOVE TWO

POINTS, SPECIFICALLY THAT JULIE MOON WILL TRAVEL
TO AND FROM SEOUL WITH PRESS CORPS AND ENGAGE ONLY IN
PRESS ACTIVITIES. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE WORD WHETHER
JULIE MOON HAS, IN FACT, APPLIED FOR PRESIDENTIAL TRIP.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, JOURNALISTS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, THE PRESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL07463
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740321-0938
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741158/aaaabxor.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: SEOUL 7420
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROKG RELATIONS WITH AMERICAN PRESS
TAGS: PFOR, KS, US, (MOON, JULIE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005